

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

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P R 061356Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO COMEASTFOR PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8045

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR

SUBJECT: CRITIQUE OF EXERCISE SHAMAL XIX

REF: A) CMEF 181500Z AUG 73 B) CMEF 210901Z SEP 73

C) CMEF 230802Z SEP 73 D) JIDDA 4828 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: EMBASSY CONSIDERS EXERCISE WAS USEFUL, ALTHOUGH KUWAIT PLAYED MINIMAL ROLE. SEVERAL POINTS RE EXERCISE UNCLEAR AND WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF CMEF OFFICER COULD COME TO KUWAIT TO ASSIST PLO ON PORT PLAN AND ADVISE RE VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS AND PROCEDURES. END SUMMARY.

1. ROLE OF AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IN EXERCISE SHAMAL XIX WAS MARGINAL, AS WAS ITS PARTICIPATION. REF A DEFINED RESPONSIBILITIES OF PLO AS 1) REPORTING AVAILABLE SHIPPING, AND 2) SIMULATING CHARTERING/REQUISITIONING OF AUGMENTATION SHIPPING AT DIRECTION OF CMEF.

2. AVAILABLE SHIPPING: REF B (RECEIVED HERE SEVERAL DAYS LATE) DIRECTED PLOS TO SUBMIT HAVREPS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OPPLAN 4310, BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE FORMAT FOR HAVREPS INCLUDED ONLY IN FORMATTED MERCHANT SHIP MOVEMENT AND CONTROL REPORTING SYSTEM (NU)(MERCO). REF C CONTAINED AN INFORMATION FORMAT, BUT THIS WAS NOT IDENTI-
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FIED AS HAVREP, NOR WERE THERE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS AS TO ITS USE.

3. CHARTERING: REF A POSTULATED SIMULATED CHARTERING/REQUISITIONING OF AUGMENTATION SHIPPING BY PLO AT DIRECTION OF CMEF, BASED ON DATA SUPPLIED FROM HAVREPS AND NUMBER EVACUEES. HOWEVER, NO INSTRUCTION FROM CMEF CAME ADVISING US TO PROCEED WITH SIMULATED CHARTERING. WAS THIS FAILURE IN EXERCISE, OR WERE INSTRUCTIONS IN REF A AMBIGUOUS? SINCE THERE ARE FEW US SHIPS HERE, IS IT CORRECT TO ASSUME THAT IN EVENT CHARTERING FOREIGN VESSELS BECAME NECESSARY, CMEF WOULD ADVISE WHICH SHIPS TO CHARTER?

4. IT WAS UNCLEAR TO WHOM INFO COPIES OF SHIPPING REPORTS WERE TO BE SENT. IN ORDER TO DECREASE BURDEN ON COMMUNICATIONS (AS NOTED IN REF D), SUGGEST THAT REPORT INFO TRAFFIC BE LIMITED ON NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS, AND THAT OTHER COMMUNICATIONS BE SIMILARLY REDUCED. PLO KUWAIT RECEIVED MORE THAN TWENTY CABLES ON KENYA PART OF EXERCISE, IN WHICH KUWAIT NOT INVOLVED.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY PARTICIPATION SHAMAL XIX WAS USEFUL SINCE IT RESULTED IN IMPROVEMENT IN METHOD OF COLLECTING LOCAL SHIPPING INFORMATION AND BETTER FAMILIARITY WITH REPORTING PROCEDURES. IT ALSO SHOWED NEED FOR MORE EFFECTIVE PRE-EXERCISE COORDINATION BETWEEN STATE AND CMEF REPS IF FUTURE EXERCISE ARE TO SUCCEED. RECOMMEND CMEF OFFICER COME TO KUWAIT TDY FOR FEW DAYS TO WORK WITH PLO ON PORT PLAN, TO REVIEW AND UPDATE COMIDEASTFOR FILE MATERIALS, AND TO ADVISE ON PROCEDURES.
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